

County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of PA
General Business Meeting
Friday, June 26, 2026
The Hyatt Place, State College and Zoom

Chief POs in attendance in person: Alan Pelton (Allegheny), Regina Himes (Armstrong), Ian Thomson (Beaver), Scott Bailey (Blair), Doug Ritson (Butler), Ryan Smeltzer (Centre), Chris Pawlowski (Chester), Trevor Oates (Crawford), Doug Wilburne (Cumberland – Proxy), Andrew Cooper (Dauphin – Proxy), Chris Kessler (Erie), Doug Wilburne (Franklin), Len Hahn (Huntingdon), Michelle Beaver (Juniata), Audrey Fortna (Lebanon), Bernie Sikora (Monroe), Kathy Subbio (Montgomery), Michelle Orris (Perry), Colin Devanney (Snyder), Scott Kerstetter (Union), Isaac Hastings (Venango), Keith Shaffer (Wayne)

Chief Pos in attendance via Zoom: Kristi Fields (Adams), Bernard Smith (Bedford), Justin Popovich (Bradford), Mike Harrison (Bucks), Kristine Shaffer (Clarion- Proxy), Donald Coleman (Columbia/Montour), Danielle Hibberd (Delaware), Derick Morey (Elk), LeRoy Townsend (Fayette), Mark Rhoads (Forest), Dan Miller (Fulton), Amanda Leonard (Indiana), Gene Eiden (Lackawanna), Jennifer Nissley (Lancaster – Proxy), Jamie Jendrysik (Lawrence), Kristin Berke (Lehigh – Proxy), Kevin Perluk (Luzerne), John Stahl (Lycoming - Proxy), Jeanette Palmer-Briscoe (Philadelphia), Jeff Angradi (Pike), Brian Abel (Potter), Dave Roman (Somerset), Mike Walters (Warren), Eric Leydig (Westmoreland)

Others in attendance in person: Lee Grafton (Armstrong), John Scolastico (Berks), Adam Bechdel (Berks), Jennifer Walters (Blair), Amanda Jackson (Butler), Curt Stockdale (Dauphin), Parker Beatty (Dauphin), Colton Spade (Mifflin), Daniel Harvey (Montgomery), Brian Weidow (Perry), Lisa Salak (Wayne), Donald Overmoyer (York), Sarah VanScyoc (York), Mike Stough (York), Jared Sechrist (York), Rhys Kershaw (York)

Helene Placey (CCAPPOAP), Rick Parsons (Carey Group)

Others in attendance via Zoom: Carly Sterner (Adams), Renawn Harris (Allegheny), Bryanna Davis (Berks), Marlena Ohlinger (Berks), Eric Burkholder (Berks), Kimberly Cooper (Carbon), Sandi Larson (Chester), Rebecca Showers (Chester), Geoffrey Willett (Franklin), Alfredo Pisa (Lackawanna), Michelle Davis (Lackawanna), Chris Frye (Lebanon), Renee Ficzk (Montgomery), Jaquetta Thornton (Montgomery), Jen Tamblyn (Pike), Carol Mullen (Somerset), Roger Vought (Somerset)

Kevin Griffin (Connectrex), Tristan Gardner (ezJustice), Brian Steuhl (GovAI), Jim Beck (GovAI), John Cookus (GovAI), Dr. Robert Orth (PCCD & IUP), Michael Leister (PCCD), Nancy Heisler

(PCCD), Frank Scherer (PCCD), Tien Ho (DOC-Interstate Services), Robert Sisock (PA Commission on Sentencing, Abbey Geffken (PATCP)

Note: There may have been other individuals on Zoom that were not able to be identified.

Meeting called order: by President Doug Wilburne at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Scott Bailey and Helene Placey took roll call of all county chiefs in attendance. It was determined a quorum had been established.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Doug Wilburne

- Met with PCCD back in April and had good discussions regarding several topic including where we are at with the EBP grant and ACT 44 data collection (what would be possible for departments to collect and share).
- The association is pursuing a proposal for JRI-2 funds to help with conference speaker fees and other operational costs, potentially including a new part-time position for special projects.

Vice President, Chris Pawlowski

- A letter was sent on behalf of the association to AOPC, strongly encouraging that any new vendor for the problem-solving court case management system be required to integrate with county court systems to prevent redundant data entry.
- Chris and April will participate in a panel discussion at the trial court judges' conference in July in Hershey to share the association's perspective on workflow issues caused by Act 44.
- A house bill creating an exception to the Wiretap Act to permit probation officer body camera use progressed quickly through the House with an overwhelming majority vote. The association's previous neutral stance was largely ignored, and Senate action may be imminent. The membership remains split, with roughly one-third in support, one-third opposed, and one-third neutral. The goal is to encourage neutrals to take a side to form a clear association consensus.

Secretary, Scott Bailey

- Action Item: Scott Bailey asked for approval of the March 27, 2026, membership meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes by Len Hahn (Huntingdon); seconded by Scott Kerstetter (Union). Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Treasurer, Audrey Fortna

- The Q2 beginning balance was \$250,927.29, with deposits of \$23,897.20.

- Major payments included the Hyatt (\$2,861), Helene's Q1 salary (\$18,121.40), and expense reimbursement (\$1,435.87).
- The Q2 ending balance is \$256,661.40.
- Helene clarified that the association's operating budget is approximately \$175,000, and as a non-profit, the goal is to maintain one year's worth of operating expenses, not generate profit.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Robert Orth, Chief Research Strategist, PCCD

- Dr. Robert Orth presented on a newly funded research unit. This unit will provide recidivism data analysis to counties free of charge on a voluntary basis.
- Dr. Orth described two previous rounds of recidivism analysis with volunteer counties, providing them with rearrest rates at 1, 3, and 5-year intervals. These projects were funded by federal grants.
- The goal is to baseline pre-COVID rates and eventually establish a statewide rate.
- Dr. Morris is seeking input from chiefs on what data would be most valuable (e.g., rates by charge/demographics, new offenses).
- The process for counties is low-lift, requiring authorization for their case management vendor to send a data extract to PCCD.
- We currently do not have statewide recidivism rates, so the more counties that get involved, the better we will be able to understand statewide recidivism trends.

Executive Director's Report: Helene Placey

- As of this morning, no state budget has been passed.
- Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week: July 19-25
- An extension request has been submitted to PCCD for the EBP Grant.
- Recent "train-the-trainer" classes for ORAS, Motivational Interviewing, and Case Planning have produced newly certified instructors.
- End-user classes are being scheduled for Core Competencies and WRNA candidates.
- Chiefs were encouraged to continue submitting nominations for train the trainer, with the grant extension hoped to last through Fall 2027.
- The association achieved 100% collection of member dues.
- Assessments are nearly all paid, with only one county outstanding.

Communications Committee – Doug Wilburne, chair

- The annual caseload survey data collected earlier this year is currently being compiled and evaluated by consultant Bryanna Davis. All but one county participated in the study and discussions regarding how the data will be presented to the Association are ongoing.

- A new "EBT Champion" statewide recognition program is being launched. Nominations forms will be sent out and any staff or stakeholders who exemplify EBP standards are eligible for nomination. The EBP Committee will select the winner.
- The PPCJI newsletter will now be sent out every other month.

EBP Committee – Doug Wilburne, chair

- Implementation grant extension is pending. Approved through PCCD, just waiting on the controller to approve through Sept 2027.
- The grant will not be extended past September, 2027 so this may be the last opportunity to have staff get free train the trainer classes.
- Please continue to send nomination forms for interested staff.

Data & Quality Assurance Workgroup - Bryanna Davis, co-chair

- Currently working on data definitions for standard input.
- The committee is working with JNET and PCCD on a unified recidivism dashboard.

Implementing Effective Interventions Workgroup – Ashlee Lynn, co-chair

- A mentorship program for chiefs is being developed.
- A new "Building Professional Alliance" training is in development and expected to roll out in the fall.
- The committee is also researching and developing recommendations for contact standards based on risk levels as there are currently no set in stone standards.

Intercounty Affairs Committee – Pam Sheffer, chair

- No updates.

Policy and Legislative Committee – Helene Placey (chair vacancy)

- The proposed body-worn camera legislation (HB 2299) was discussed last night at the Chief's only meeting. So far only about 20 Chief's have responded to Helene's request for an opinion on the matter, so the Association was unable to provide an official position to the state legislature.
- An at length discussion among the attending Chief's was had regarding pros and cons. Arguments in favor included the belief that body cameras can provide accurate context, protect against false allegations, and document use-of-force incidents, particularly during warrant service, arrests, and searches. Arguments against included concerns that cameras could harm rapport and professional alliances, especially during sensitive conversations about mental health or victimization. Other concerns included equipment/storage costs, data security, Right-to-Know exposure, and complexities with confidential juvenile records. Concerns that "opening the door" could lead to future legislation mandating body cams and standardizing procedures statewide, removing local discretion was also discussed.
- AOPC will not take a position and JCJC is currently discussing their opinion.
- The discussion concluded with a decision to send another email to member chiefs to gather updated positions urgently, given the compressed legislative timeline.

- House Bill 131 proposes withholding state funds from entities not using the Act 57 MOPETC hiring/separation database.
- A House resolution (HR 547) would study EM as an alternative to incarceration. Chris Pawloski is advocating for the inclusion of probation practitioners in the study.
- New legislation expanding the included roles for Hunting/Fishing licenses to law enforcement officers for \$1.00 did not include probation officers as eligible participants. The association is advocating to have probation officers included in the bill offering discounted licenses. A letter will be sent to the House.
- The hands-free law is now in full enforcement, and citations are being issued (Act 18 of 2024).

Training and Education Committee – Chris Pawloski, chair

- Grant funding will be extended through September 2027 for train-the trainer. Applications for free train-the trainer nominees are currently being accepted. Classes include ORAS, MI, Case Planning Core Competencies and WRNA. This may be the last opportunity for free classes once the grant runs out.
- The ongoing webinar series for interstate, privacy and search & seizure have received very good feedback. Future topics will include generative AI policy guidance and sex offender supervision 101/102.
- Conference registration information has been sent and the early registration deadline is August 1, 2026.
- The association is looking for assistance with presenters and ideas. The 2026 conference is proving difficult to organize. A proposal was made to hold a 2027 conference and then move to a biennial format which will be discussed further by the executive committee.
- Carey Group has created a resource guide for staff EBP training. All should consider using the resource in their organizations.

CAPPAC AND CAPPAC SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee – Chris Pawloski, member

- Just a reminder that CAPPAC meetings are available for all members to attend. These are public meetings and information can be shared with employees. Feel free to attend.

Funding subcommittee - April Billet, chair, Jason Foltz, vice-chair

- No updates.

Standards subcommittee - Scott Kerstetter, vice chair

- Subcommittee will be meeting in the fall to start reviewing standards.
- Consideration is being made regarding weighing standards based on importance. Members are encouraged to consider the matter and provide feedback.

Training Subcommittee – Chris Pawloski, chair

- There are concerns regarding the length of time it takes to get a new employee enrolled in BTA and solutions are being discussed. Current attendance is based on hire date.

- Consideration is being made to include de-escalation training to BTA.

STATE AGENCY UPDATES

PCCD – Michael Leister

- Funding announcements for IP, Continuing County Adult Probation and Parole Grant and JRI-2, if included will begin to roll out upon passing of the state budget.
- For 2026, IP Plans will be submitted with the IP application as normal. However, when sending it to the Commission on Sentencing for review, PCCD will include county chiefs so that Commission staff can reach out directly for any edits/updates. If edits are required, the final plan will need to be submitted in Egrants.
- Starting in 2027, counties will submit their IP Plans to the Commission by April 30.
- Operating standards for County Adult Probation and Parole Departments in PA 4th Editions has been approved. The only change to this edition is the addition of standard B.27 which requires all departments to move toward person first language in all documents by July 1, 2027.
- PCCD is establishing a new reentry subcommittee under the purview its Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) in partnership with the Office of Attorney General. goal is to develop a strategic plan that outlines the system-wide reforms, investments, and coordination needed to strengthen reentry outcomes statewide and present to CJAC for approval in February 2027.
- 2026/27 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Single Solicitation for Local Initiatives funding announcement is open and the deadline for applications is July 14. The maximum award amount is \$250,000.
- PCCD's CAPPAs have begun Year 2 standards visits. As a reminder for those that haven't had their visit yet, Year 2 visits will consist of more in-depth reviews of policy, procedure, and related documents due to the nature and importance of the remaining 42 operating standards.
- The 2026 Statewide CIT Conference will be held October 26-27 at the Hershey Lodge. Registration will open in August.
- The 2028 CJAB Conference will be held on May 2-4, 2028, at the Kalahari Resorts in Pocono Manor.
- There are four Basic Training Academy classes scheduled for 2026. The first Class was held in March - April 10th. The next BTA Class ran from June 1st – June 12th, and 26 Officers Graduated from the class. Currently, there are approximately 52 officers on the BTA list for 2026.
- Officers attending the BTA are now required to complete several online "pre-work" courses prior to the start of the BTA.
- The 1st defensive tactics Train the Trainer course was held in February 2026. There were 20 officers in attendance from 12 different counties. The second Train the Trainer course was held June 8th-June 12th with 20 officers from 8 different counties. Additional DT & TTT Courses will be scheduled for later in 2026.
- CAPPs training system is currently in development. Once completed, this phase will replace the current FETC computer system.

- There are upcoming FET Train the Trainer classes for course 3 Mind Set / Range Fundamentals, course 8 Advanced Fundamentals, course 4 Wounded Officer and course 7 Weapon Retention. These classes are scheduled at HACC and enrollment is underway for July 27th Course 3, July 28th Course 8, July 29th Course 4, and July 30th Course 7.
- There are 2 FET Basic Firearms courses remaining for 2026.

AOPC (no update)

DOC Interstate Services – Tien Ho

- A new national platform will be replacing the current program on Nov 2, 2026. Training will be conducted in September and October. Targeted training sessions will be held.

DOC Probation & Parole Field Services (no update)

JNET – Chris Pawlowski (for Amelia Marsh)

- Amelia is on vacation June 17 – July 8. Please reach out to Laurie Snow at lsnow@pa.gov with any questions
- AWS – continued efforts to move all JNET components to the cloud.
- There have been some security enhancements and administrators have likely noticed recent updates. Date of birth is now required when sending new user information. Additionally, the attention and reason field are now required when conducting photo search.
- Efforts continue to consolidate several stand-alone applications to a single platform providing a more streamlined experience.
- MVDLS is awaiting PennDOT readiness. Once implementation begins, the current JNET-PennDOT connections will transfer from the current system of record to the new MVDLS system.
- Currently working with a vendor for implementation of MFA enhancements.
- A reminder to make sure that all queries are tied to a docket number or an OTN.

PA Commission on Sentencing – Robert Sisock

- Thanks to counties for their work in reporting 2025 sentences. We achieved a new high of 99% reporting statewide. We appreciate the cooperation in this important initiative.
- Related, I will be soon reaching out to everyone regarding reporting of resentences, similar to what I did last year. Updated report of resentences from Q1 of this year will be shared once that data is finalized. We just received it from AOPC
- We are still continuing our development of SGS Web replacement CSRE. It is nearing completion and we are targeting a pilot process this winter.
- As you may recall, we developed a new approach to our implementation manual for 8th Edition. Earlier this year, we released the Compendium which is a topical reference guide for practitioners. The first volume focused on the Sentencing Guidelines. Volume 2 was published to our website this week and focuses on Resentencing Guidelines.
- We also have created a reference document of appellate rulings related to Act 44. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

- Next week our summer edition of newsletter will be released which will provide you with links to our upcoming seminars.

PA Association of Court Management (no update)

PA Association of Treatment Court Professionals – Abbey Geffken, Executive Director

- May was national treatment court month.
- A treatment court roundtable was conducted with AOPC. The event went well and will likely continue to be scheduled.
- Strategic plan is being finalized with Rick Parsons with the Carey Group.
- PATCP conference October 7-9 at the Penn Stater. Registration opens in July.

PA DUI Association (no update)

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- New Chief appointments: Bucks County, Mike Harrison and Cambria County, Jeffrey Vivian
- No member comments.
- PPS week is July 19-25, 2026.
- Next quarterly membership meetings are September 23 and the Penn Stater Hotel and December 4 at the Hyatt Place.
- 2026 Conference is September 21-22 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.

Action item: Motion to adjourn by Chris Pawlowski (Chester) and seconded by Audrey Fortna (Lebanon). All voted in favor to adjourn.

Meeting Adjured

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Bailey, Secretary